



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Application No.: 10/765,427
Filing Date: January 27, 2004
Applicant: Robert LaFave et al.
Group Art Unit: To be assigned
Examiner: To be assigned
Title: DECORATIVE SYSTEM COMPOSITE AND METHOD
Attorney Docket: POL-00011

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. **LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The patents, publications and other information submitted for consideration by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 or PTO/SB/08a and 08b attached hereto.

II. **COPIES**

A. ☒ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. ☐ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or PTO/SB/08a and 08b or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. ☐ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 or PTO/SB/08a and 08b for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. ☒ Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ☐ See the attached foreign search report.
2. ☐ English translations are provided for:
3. ☐ Other:

C. ☐ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. ☒ The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1. ☒ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

2. ____ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

3. ____ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. ____ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ____ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

- before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ____ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. ____ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ____ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

- after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ____ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. ____ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)); or

B. ____ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the

knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ☐ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 501612 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 501612.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 501612.

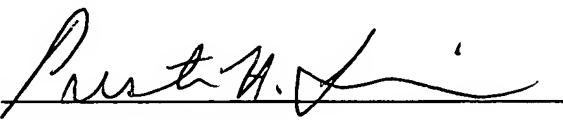
Respectfully submitted,

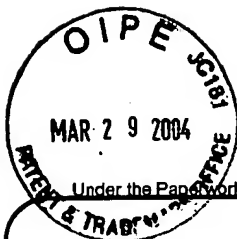
WARN, BURGESS & HOFFMANN, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

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Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248) 364-4300

Dated: March 24, 2004

PHS: srk
Enclosures

By: 
Preston H. Smirman
Reg. No. 35365



PTO/SB/21 (05-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/765,427
	Filing Date	January 27, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Robert LaFave et al.
	Art Unit	To be assigned
	Examiner Name	To be assigned
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	POL-00011

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): PTO Form SB/08a and 08b; Copies of 73 U.S. Patents, 11 Foreign Patents & 11 other Documents; Return Receipt Postcard
Remarks Applicant believes no fee to be due for the attached filing, however, should additional fees be due in order to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 501612 (Warn, Burgess & Hoffmann, P.C.) for any such fees due. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed for this purpose.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

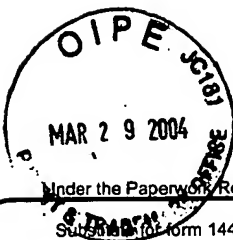
Firm or Individual name	Warn, Burgess & Hoffmann, P.C. Preston H. Smirman - Reg No. 35365		
Signature			
Date	March 24, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Typed or printed name	Preston H. Smirman - Reg No. 35365		
Signature		Date	March 24, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PTO/SB/08a (05-03)

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

6

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/765,427
Filing Date	January 27, 2004
First Named Inventor	Robert LaFave et al.
Art Unit	To be assigned
Examiner Name	To be assigned
Attorney Docket Number	POL-00011

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 3,640,791	02/08/1972	Rosenheim	
		US- 3,829,343	08/13/1974	Remmert	
		US- 3,919,379	11/11/1975	Smarook	
		US- 3,928,710	12/23/1975	Arnold et al.	
		US- 4,072,779	02/07/1978	Knox et al.	
		US- 4,101,698	07/18/1978	Dunning et al.	
		US- 4,263,077	04/21/1981	Rampelberg	
		US- 4,291,085	09/22/1981	Ito et al.	
		US- 4,326,005	04/20/1982	Reed et al.	
		US- 4,330,352	05/18/1982	Grimes et al.	
		US- 4,333,786	06/08/1982	Civardi et al.	
		US- 4,329,196	05/11/1982	Rawlinson	
		US- 4,392,905	07/12/1983	Boyd et al.	
		US- 4,421,816	12/20/1983	Arnold	
		US- 4,421,839	12/20/1983	Takiguchi et al.	
		US- 4,451,522	05/29/1984	de Vroom	
		US- 4,490,427	12/25/1984	Grant et al.	
		US- 4,497,851	02/05/1985	de Vroom	
		US- 4,515,649	05/07/1985	Nussbaum	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP 0159942 A2	10/30/1985	Effenberger et al.		
		EP 0230364 A2	07/29/1987	Johnson et al.		
		EP 0230364 B1	07/29/1987	Johnson et al.		
		EP 0230364 B2	07/29/1987	Johnson et al.		
		EP 0266107 A2	05/04/1988	Ellison et al.		
		EP 0266107 B2	05/04/1988	Ellison et al.		

Examiner
Signature

Date

Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/765,427
Filing Date	January 27, 2004
First Named Inventor	Robert LaFave et al.
Art Unit	To be assigned
Examiner Name	To be assigned
Attorney Docket Number	POL.00011

Sheet **2** of **6****U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 4,536,546	08/20/1985	Briggs	
		US- 4,637,904	01/20/1987	Rounds	
		US- 4,773,957	09/27/1988	Briggs	
		US- 4,810,540	03/07/1989	Ellison et al.	
		US- 4,818,589	04/04/1989	Johnson et al.	
		US- 4,824,506	04/25/1989	Hoerner et al.	
		US- 4,832,991	05/23/1989	Hayward et al.	
		US- 4,900,611	02/13/1990	Carroll, Jr.	
		US- 4,902,557	02/20/1990	Rohrbacher	
		US- 4,906,507	03/06/1990	Grynaeus et al.	
		US- 4,913,760	04/03/1990	Benson et al.	
		US- 4,913,970	04/03/1990	Hayward et al.	
		US- 4,918,800	04/24/1990	Reafler	
		US- 4,921,556	05/01/1990	Hakiel et al.	
		US- 4,921,755	05/01/1990	Carroll, Jr. et al.	
		US- 4,931,324	06/05/1990	Ellison et al.	
		US- 4,933,237	06/12/1990	Krencseski et al.	
		US- 4,943,680	07/27/1990	Ellison et al.	
		US- 4,976,896	12/11/1990	Short et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP 0348310 A2	12/27/1989	Smith		
		EP 0348310 A3	12/27/1989	Smith		
		EP 0348310 B1	12/27/1989	Smith		
		WO 84/03473	09/13/1984	Boyd et al.		
		WO 86/01771	03/27/1986	Galante		

Examiner
Signature

Date

Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,026,448	06/25/1991	Reafler et al.	
		US- 5,034,077	07/23/1991	Pata	
		US- 5,034,269	07/23/1991	Wheeler	
		US- 5,034,275	07/23/1991	Pearson et al.	
		US- 5,100,728	03/31/1992	Plamthottam et al.	
		US- 5,114,514	05/19/1992	Landis	
		US- 5,114,789	05/19/1992	Reafler	
		US- 5,118,372	06/02/1992	Spahn	
		US- 5,125,994	06/30/1992	Harasta et al.	
		US- 5,132,148	07/21/1992	Reafler	
		US- 5,165,976	11/24/1992	Newing et al.	
		US- 5,192,609	03/09/1993	Carroll, Jr.	
		US- 5,203,941	04/20/1993	Spain et al.	
		US- 5,215,811	06/01/1993	Reafler et al.	
		US- 5,215,826	06/01/1993	Shimanski et al.	
		US- 5,268,215	12/07/1993	Krencseski et al.	
		US- 5,286,528	02/15/1994	Reafler	
		US- 5,318,815	06/07/1994	Newing et al.	
		US- 5,456,976	10/10/1995	LaMarca, II; Louis J. et al.	

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Sheet 4 of 6

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,518,786	05/51/1996	Johnson et al.	
		US- 5,593,759	01/14/1997	Vargas et al.	
		US- 5,599,608	02/04/1997	Yamamoto et al.	
		US- 5,707,697	01/13/1998	Spain et al.	
		US- 5,725,712	03/10/1998	Spain et al.	
		US- 5,747,177	05/05/1998	Torimoto et al.	
		US- 5,750,234	05/12/1998	Johnson et al.	
		US- 5,759,477	06/02/1998	Yamamoto	
		US- 5,783,287	07/21/1998	Yamamoto et al.	
		US- 5,817,402	10/06/1998	Miyake et al.	
		US- 5,840,783	11/24/1998	Momchilovich et al.	
		US- 5,916,643	06/29/1999	Spain et al.	
		US- 5,919,537	07/06/1999	Niazy	
		US- 6,284,183	09/04/2001	Roys et al.	
		US- 2002/0009598 A1	01/24/2002	LaFave et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/765,427
		Filing Date	January 27, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Robert LaFave et al.
		Art Unit	To be assigned
		Examiner Name	To be assigned
Sheet 5	of 6	Attorney Docket Number	POL-00011

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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		WILLIAM NG; "SPE Honors Pacesetting Plastics Developments;" Modern Plastics; 1/2003; Pages 58-59.	

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